

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03598 091541Z

66

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /076 W

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R 091250Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3243

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, EG

SUBJECT: GOE POSITION ON CYPRUS

REF: ANKARA 2761

1. TURKISH PRESS REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY (REFTEL), WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT SADAT HAS CALLED MAKARIOS HIS "BEST FRIEND". LOCAL PRESS REPORT APRIL 4 OF SADAT INTERVIEW WITH GREEK TV REPORTED HIM AS SAYING MAKARIOS IS "PERSONAL FRIEND OF OURS" AND EXPRESSING OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR UNITY OF CYPRUS.

2. FOR THE RECORD, GOE POLICY ON CYPRUS HAS BEEN CONSISTENT; THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN SADAT'S REPORTED PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING BITSIOS VISIT. EGYPTIANS SUPPORT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF UNIFIED ISLAND STATE UNDER MAKARIOS.

3. WE ASSUME TURKISH PRESS HAS ITS OWN DOMESTIC ENDS TO
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03598 091541Z

GAIN BY DOUBTING DEPTH OF SADAT'S COMMITMENT TO ISLAM.

THE CHARGE, OF COURSE, IS RIDICULOUS. HE IS A GENUINELY
RELIGIOUS MAN, THOUGH HE IS NOT ABOVE USING HIS FAITH AS
POLITICAL TOOL TO COUNTER MOSLEM FUNDAMENTALIST ANTI-REGIME
PROPAGANDA. WHILE HE HAS SCRUPULOUSLY CULTIVATED HIS
RELATIONS WITH THE COPTIC COMMUNITY HERE, HE HAS THE
REPUTATION OF A DEVOUT MOSLEM, A REPUTATION WHICH TO BEST
OUR KNOWLEDGE IS WELL DESERVED.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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